Env.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

OF A

PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

(10-SJ-12 P.M. 4.2/5.1)

Prepared for:

Michael Baltich Heritage Preservation Coordinator District 10 Department of Transportation

Prepared by:

Charla M. Meacham <u>Charla M Meacham</u> Archaeological Specialist Office of Environmental Planning Department of Transportation Sacramento, California

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Summary

No cultural resources were found during the survey of this project.

Introduction

On June 7, 1977, an archaeological survey was conducted of a proposed bridge replacement project on Highway 12 in northwestern San Joaquin County (10-SJ-12 P.M. 4.2/5.1). The survey was conducted by:

Charla M. Meacham, Archaeological Specialist, Office of Environmental Planning; A.B., Anthropology and Psychology; M.A. candidate, Anthropology; archaeological experience in California.

F. E. Cureton, Chief, Environmental Physical Studies Section, District 10.

Project Description

The proposed project involves replacement of the Highway 12 bridge over Potato Slough and associated approaches from the east and west (USGS 7.5' quads, Bouldin Island, T. 3N, R. 4E; Terminous, T. 3N, R. 4E). The new bridge will be located approximately 200 feet to the north of the present one (Bridge No. 29-101). The approaches taper from the new bridge to connections with the highway about 1,700 feet to the west and 1,500 feet to the east. The new portion will consist of 12-foot lanes with 8-foot paved shoulders.

Sources Consulted

The National Register of Historic Places (1977 update), Inventory of Historic Features (State of California 1976), and California Historical Landmarks (State of California 1975) were checked for cultural resources in the project area. None are listed. Archaeological site files at the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento were checked by the author; however, no resources in or near the project area were listed. Also, files at California State College, Stanislaus (Regional Office of the California Archaeological Sites Survey) were checked per my telephone request on December 14, 1977, by Elizabeth Greathouse, who reported no previously recorded sites in or near the project area.

Background

Ethnographically, the project area is located very close to the boundary between the Bay Miwok, Plains Miwok, and Yokuts (Bennyhoff 1977:Map 3). However, as a Plains Miwok ethnographic village, Musupumne, is located on Staten Island on the west bank of the south fork of the Mokelumne River, this suggests the project area may also have been Plains Miwok.

Historically, the area has been under cultivation for over a hundred years. Historic reference materials make no mention of the town of Terminous or the ferry which crossed the Mokelumne River near the project (Thompson and West 1968; San Joaquin County 1862, 1870, and 1883; Tinkham 1923).

Field Methodology

The proposed alignment was inspected on foot. On the east side of Potato Slough, much of the ground surface was obscured by introduced grasses (Bermuda grass) and wild blackberries. West of Potato Slough the project area is planted to corn and the alignment could not be inspected; however, the edge of the field next to the highway was walked.

Study Findings

No cultural resources were located in the project area. A building on stilts, which runs parallel to Potato Slough, exists just to the east of the slough. Formerly, this was a recreation location of some sort and a row of small houses, probably associated with the resort, lined the side street. All but one, which is still inhabited, have been dismantled.

If any archaeologic materials are encountered during project construction activities, an archaeologist should be consulted to evaluate the find(s).

References Cited

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San Joaquin County

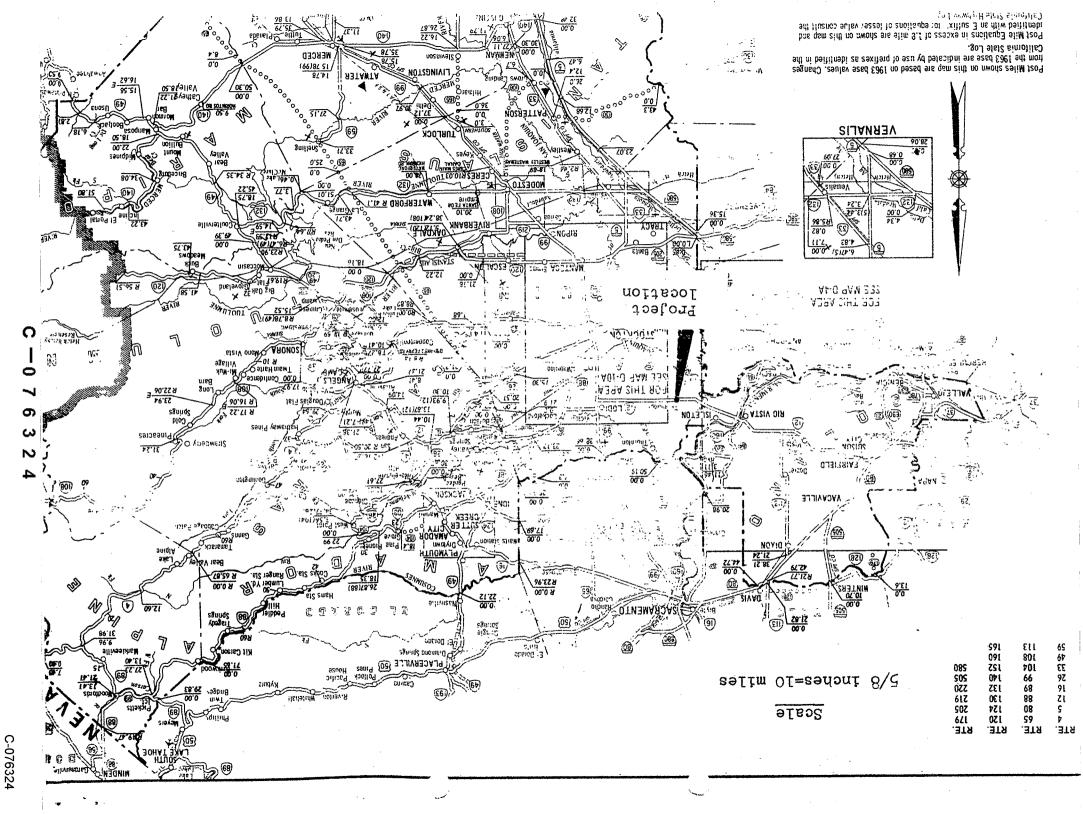
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